

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7020**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1301

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 6, 2006

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Marion County government consolidation.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Mahern

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**      **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Pending

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill has the following provisions:

*Marion County Consolidations:* In Marion County, the bill:

- (1) reduces the term of office for a township assessor elected in the 2006 general election from four years to two years;
- (2) beginning January 1, 2008, eliminates the Office of Township Assessor;
- (3) provides that the city controller administers the Dog Tax and Dog Fund and the county assessor assumes other township assessor duties and responsibilities;
- (4) adjusts the membership of the County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals; and
- (5) provides that ordinances and resolutions concerning budgets and appropriations for judicial officers and certain county officers are subject to veto (current law exempts those ordinances and resolutions from veto).

*Airport Authority Law Enforcement Consolidation:* The bill permits the consolidated city to adopt an ordinance to merge the Airport Authority's law enforcement services into the consolidated law enforcement department of the consolidated city (current law requires the airport authority to adopt a substantially similar ordinance).

*Fire Department Consolidation:* It consolidates township fire departments, fire protection territories, and the Airport Authority Fire Department into the fire department of the consolidated city. It also creates a Consolidated Fire Department Advisory Commission to advise the chief of the consolidated department regarding department operations. It provides that the employees of the fire departments being consolidated

become employees of the consolidated fire department. It provides that the property, equipment, records, rights, contracts (including labor contracts), and indebtedness related to fire protection services of the fire departments being consolidated are transferred to or assumed by the consolidated city. It establishes the process by which the fire department of an excluded city can be consolidated into the fire department of a consolidated city. It provides that the consolidated fire department shall provide emergency ambulance services in the county.

*Ad Valorem Tax for Fire Departments and Districts:* It exempts from the ad valorem property tax limits amounts imposed by a consolidated city to fund indebtedness assumed, defeased, paid, or refunded in connection with the consolidation of certain fire departments into the fire department of a consolidated city. The bill establishes the annual maximum increase in the permissible ad valorem property tax levy for a consolidated city related to the fire special service district. It adjusts the maximum ad valorem property tax levy of a consolidated city for 2007 to account for the consolidation of certain fire departments into the fire department of the consolidated city.

*Pension for Fire Department Consolidation:* It authorizes the fire special services district to levy a tax to pay the amounts required to satisfy the 1937 firefighters' pension fund obligations. It provides that a firefighter who is a member of the 1937 or 1977 fund remains a member of the same fund after the consolidation. It provides that a firefighter whose services for an entity are consolidated into the metropolitan law enforcement agency or the fire department of a consolidated city becomes a member of the 1977 fund.

*Issuance of Debt:* It authorizes a consolidated city to issue obligations to refund obligations issued by the fire departments being consolidated into the fire department of the consolidated city.

*Conformance:* It makes conforming changes.

*Legislative Findings:* It makes legislative findings concerning the need for government consolidation in Marion County.

*Repeal:* It repeals a provision requiring the special service district to pay for the care of a firefighter or police officer who is injured or contracts and illness while in the performance of the firefighter or police officer's duties.

**Effective Date:** Upon passage; ; July 1, 2006; January 1, 2007.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *As of the above date, the fiscal analysis of this bill has not been completed. Please contact the Office of Fiscal and Management Analysis for an update of this fiscal impact statement.*

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Valerie Ruda, 317-232-9867; Bob Sigalow, 317-232-9859.